II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A phase-locked loop circuit comprising:

an oscillator controlled in dependence on the output of a phase detector;

an output amplifier for amplifying the output of the oscillator;

a first feedback path to the phase detector from the output of the output amplifier;

a second feedback path from the output of the oscillator to the phase detector, by-passing the output amplifier; and

control means for disabling the output amplifier when the loop circuit is not locked and interrupting the second feedback path when the loop circuit has become locked;

~~A circuit according to claim 1,~~ wherein the second feedback path includes a variable gain amplifier ~~(33),~~ and the control means ~~(26, 40, 41) being~~ is configured to interrupt the second feedback path by reducing the gain of the variable gain amplifier ~~(33)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 2, wherein the control means ~~(26, 40, 41)~~ is configured to interrupt the second feedback path by ramping down the gain of the variable gain amplifier ~~(33)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 3, wherein the control means ~~(26, 40, 41)~~ is configured to ramp up the gain of output amplifier ~~(27)~~ on enabling thereof, the ramping down of the gain of the variable gain amplifier ~~(33)~~ overlapping the ramping up of the gain of output amplifier ~~(27)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 4, including phase control means ~~(37, 38, 39)~~ for matching the phase of the output of the variable gain amplifier ~~(33)~~ to that of the output of the output amplifier ~~(27)~~ when both are operating.

6. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 5, wherein the phase control means ~~(37, 38, 39)~~ comprises a variable delay ~~(37)~~ in the second feedback path, a phase detector ~~(38)~~ receiving a signal from the second feedback path downstream of the variable delay ~~(37)~~ and a signal from the first feedback path and a low-pass filter ~~(39)~~ for filtering the output of the phase detector ~~(38)~~ to provide a delay control input signal for the variable delay ~~(37)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the first and second feedback paths share a common portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the first and second feedback paths are united by a summer ~~(34)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein said common portion includes a frequency down converter ~~(35, 36)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the first feedback path provides a feedback signal for a closed loop envelope restoration circuit of an envelope elimination and restoration transmitter, the control means ~~(26, 40, 41)~~ including an envelope controller ~~(26)~~ for controlling the gain of the output amplifier ~~(27)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A circuit according to ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the output amplifier ~~(37)~~ is an RF power amplifier of a mobile phone.